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Minutemen, Upset by G.O.P. Loss, Set New Drive

By DONALD JANSON

Special to The New York Times

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 10 — The Minutemen organization has lost patience with American reliance on the ballot.

President Johnson's landslide victory last week proves that "the time is past when the American people might have saved themselves by traditional political processes," the militantly ultraconservative group says in a post-election call to action.

The course for all "conservatives" now, it says, is to join the Minutemen's secret "underground army" for training as "America's last line of defense against Communism."

The Minutemen foresee a Communist takeover of the United States abetted by an Administration "soft on Communism." In line with this, they stress guerrilla warfare and woods - and - bramble target practice to prepare for what they believe will be rear-guard resistance that will hound the alleged Communist overlords till they withdraw and leave the nation in the hands of patriots.

Hopes 'Turned Into Dust'

"The hopes of millions of Americans that the Communist tide could be stopped with ballots instead of bullets have been turned into dust," says the November issue of On Target.

The group's monthly newsletter is written and published by Robert Bolivar DePugh, chief Minuteman, at his national headquarters office in nearby Norborne, Mo.

The post-election issue, circulated to members this week, urges all other organizations on the far right to recognize the alleged futility of resort to the ballot in the future. It says:

"Among the weak-kneed conservatives many will be shaking their heads sadly and saying, 'we simply must win in 1968.' I hope the readers of this newsletter are not naive. We are not going to have a free election in 1968."

Mr. DePugh, in the unsigned

Urge All 'Conservatives' to Join Underground Army to 'Defend' America

article, suggests that "unilateral disarmament" by the United States now will proceed so fast that "we need not concern ourselves with the 1968 election at all."

Supported Goldwater

"In all the conservative movement you cannot find another organization that worked harder than the Minutemen have to elect Barry Goldwater," he asserted.

"Literally millions of pieces of campaign literature were distributed by our members. Our members worked as volunteers in many local Republican headquarters."

He said they had done so because "thousands of other conservatives" had "urged us to make this last political effort." "Many of them said in effect," he wrote, "try once more to win by political means and if it doesn't work then we will be ready to try it your way."

Mr. DePugh, who resigned from the John Birch Society in a dispute over effectiveness of methods for dealing with what both groups see as a

Communist conspiracy to enslave the nation, offered this formula in the newsletter:

"The Communists are winning by infiltration, subversion and psychological warfare. We must turn our enemies' own tactics against them."

New Members Sought

Enclosed with the newsletter were membership application forms that members were urged to distribute to conservatives.

The forms assure applicants that the information they provide about themselves will be classified "secret" and the forms "are stored in such a manner as to be quickly and completely destroyed if any attempt is made to seize them."

Among other things, recruits are asked whether they feel they would be most effective as a "member of combat team," in "intelligence or espionage work," or in "communications, weapons, medical. . ."

Since the Minutemen were organized four years ago, members have had several scrapes with the law on charges of violating firearms statutes. A wide variety of weapons have been confiscated. Membership is secret, but has been variously estimated at "a few thousand" to 100,000. The current campaign is for an army of a million operating in guerrilla bands of a dozen or so each.